

EMBARGOED: 8.00 p.m.



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

NOVEMBER 11, 1976

The following letter was sent today to the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Neilson, by the Prime Minister along with the attached terms of reference regarding the structure of industry and employment in Tasmania.

My dear Premier,

I am attaching the terms of reference which I propose for the inquiry the Commonwealth proposes to hold into the structure of industry and the employment situation in Tasmania.

I hope these are acceptable to you and will receive the full support of departments and other instrumentalities, who will be required to supply information.

As you know the Commonwealth proposes that the inquiry should be held by a single person. When I have your reactions to the terms of reference, I would be glad to discuss with you the person who will be appointed for this purpose.

Because of the great public interest in this matter, I propose to release this letter and the terms of reference.

Yours sincerely,
(Malcolm Fraser)

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

The study is to enquire into and report upon the structure of industry and its relation to the long-term employment situation in Tasmania, in itself and in relation to the structure of industry and employment in Australia as a whole, in the light, in particular, of the following.

- (a) The inherent advantages and disabilities of Tasmanian industry, including,
- (i) separation from the Australian mainland and its consequences;
 - (ii) the availability and stage of development of natural resources, including water, land, minerals, power resources, ports and harbours, and tourist attractions;
 - (iii) relative wage levels and non-wage employment costs (e.g. workers' compensation), including the effects of relevant State legislation thereon;
 - (iv) the internal transport system.

In reporting hereon (and elsewhere, where relevant), the study shall have due regard to the Report of the Commission of Enquiry into Transport to and from Tasmania and other relevant studies.

- (b) Existing forms of assistance to, and charges levied upon, industry by the Commonwealth and State Government, and their instrumentalities, including
- (i) direct and indirect financial assistance (e.g., freight subsidies and the like, non-recovery of costs of Government services);
 - (ii) non-financial assistance;
 - (iii) tariffs, and the relative incidence thereof in Tasmania (having regard to past and pending IAC Reports on particular relevant industries);
 - (iv) royalties, taxes and other charges levied upon industry;

and the effects of these on Tasmanian industry.

(c) General level of financial assistance to Tasmania in comparison with that available to other States and the capacity of Tasmania to support its own activities including local government and give assistance to industry.

(d) Any other factors, that may, on enquiry, appear relevant, including industrial disruption and restrictive practices, and any special consequences thereof for the Tasmanian economy.
